

grassroots



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Land-based & Environment Learner Awards

Reaseheath talent recognised

Six talented former students were rewarded for their achievements at the inaugural Land-based & Environment Learner Awards, hosted by Reaseheath.

The glittering ceremony, which was attended by Minister of State for Food, Farming and Fisheries, Mark Spencer MP, celebrity farmer Adam Henson, who presented the trophies, and more than 200 guests, celebrated the success of young people who have progressed in the land-based or environmental industries in England and Northern Ireland.

The awards were launched by Lantra, the land-based training and qualification awarding body, and by Landex, the representative body for land-based colleges and universities, and attracted over 120 nominations across 10 categories from colleges, universities and professional trainers. The winners were chosen by a panel of industry professionals.

Reaseheath prizewinners included:

- Cerys Fairclough, a former Level 3 Diploma in Agriculture student who is now a national hardware sales co-ordinator for the Wynnstay Group (Overall Learner of the Year and Agriculture winner)
- Hannah Sinclair, who graduated with a BSc (Hons) Zoo Management from University Centre Reaseheath and is now a keeper at Amazona Zoo, Norfolk (Animal Care winner)
- Kacper Nowakowski, a former Level 3 Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture student, who works for his family's tree maintenance business and regularly supports current arboriculture students at Reaseheath (Arboriculture winner)
- Luke Tighe, a TechBacc Level 3 Diploma in Land-based Engineering student, who is studying for his BEng (Hons) Agricultural Engineering at Harper Adams University (Land-based Engineering winner)
- Lewis West, who completed his Level 2 and Level 3 Diplomas in Horticulture with us and is now a gardener with The National Trust (Landscape and Horticulture winner)
- Abby Dewhurst, who progressed from Level 3 Diploma to Level 4 Higher Diploma in Floristry and also set up her own floral events business (Floristry runner up)



Adam Henson with Cerys Fairclough



Hannah Sinclair

Kacper Nowakowski



Luke Tighe

The Princess Royal opens RDA Centre

HRH The Princess Royal officially opened a new centre for Nantwich & District Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Group at Reaseheath's Equestrian Centre.

The Princess Royal is a long serving President of the RDA and during her visit met some of the group's coaches and volunteers, supporters and trustees. Her Royal Highness watched a ridden demonstration in our indoor arena and spent time talking to each rider and presenting them with a rosette. She also mingled with members and their families.

An accomplished horsewoman herself, The Princess Royal ran an experienced eye over the group's Platinum Jubilee Stables and toured the fully accessible centre which includes a welfare space, training area and sophisticated riding simulator.

Group Chair Sheila Saner said: "It was a great honour to welcome The Princess Royal here to officially open our wonderful new centre and meet

some of our incredible riders and hard working volunteers.

"So many local people, organisations and businesses have supported us since we set up as a registered charity. It has been an honour to invite them to such a special event as thanks for their commitment. Reaseheath College has welcomed us and we now have a permanent, secure home in which to grow and thrive, enabling us to fully support people with disabilities in our local area".

The RDA provides therapy, fitness, skills development and often life changing opportunities for children and adults with disabilities through the use of horses. The Nantwich group was launched in 2017 and has 50 active riders and a substantial waiting list. The total annual running costs of £28,500 are met through fund raising, donations and legacies.



Watch at <https://bit.ly/ThePrincessRoyalOpensRDA>





Investment into advanced technologies

Reaseheath College and University Centre (UCR) has invested over £100 million into specialist teaching resources and facilities in recent years as we continually enhance our student experience to ensure we remain at the forefront of sector developments.

In accordance with our Leading Edge agenda, much of this investment has involved integrating further state-of-the-art precision technologies across our curriculum areas, ensuring that our students leave us with the technical skills and academic understanding that employers require.

In the current academic year we procured over £3m of specialist equipment, made possible by government funding to support higher level skills and the T Level courses we offer in Agriculture, Business, Construction, Forestry and Arboriculture, Food Science, Agricultural Engineering, Equine and Animal Management.

Construction has additionally benefitted from funding from the Advanced Construction Training project, a Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership initiative to develop digital technologies and skills regionally.

These outstanding resources meet the needs of qualifications both now and into the future. As a result we are becoming recognised for applied research and innovation and are developing local, national and international partnerships with businesses within the academic and industry sectors we serve.

New projects already delivered:

- Upgraded business hub for our industry partners
- New railway engineering workshop at Reaseheath Engineering Apprenticeship Academy
- Continued enhancement of mini zoo including pigmy marmoset enclosure
- Continued enhancement of T Level Construction workshop and classrooms
- Enhancement of farm buildings
- New automated lighting system for our Vertical Farm
- Top of the range tractors and arboriculture machinery
- New learning hub
- Refurbished Under 18 common room and restaurant
- Immersive learning zone
- Veterinary Nursing Centre with dedicated clinical skills suites
- Automotive Skills Centre

Coming soon:

- Arable data centre
- Enhancement of UCR lecture theatres
- Automated cattle feeding system
- Engineering simulator room

Carbon footprint cut

A public sector grant of over £533,000, which Reaseheath match funded, has enabled us to take the first major steps to decarbonise our entire estate.

A project to upgrade air and water heating systems in our recently modernised visitor reception and in lecture theatres and classrooms within our university centre has already made a significant impact on our annual carbon reporting.

Crucially, the improvement has advanced our strategy of removing outdated, carbon heavy, heating systems and replacing with heat pumps where possible. Two oil fired boilers have been replaced with air source pumps and increased radiant panels, and air handling

units and water heaters have been upgraded, potentially saving 80 tonnes of carbon annually.



Upgrade advances crop growing research

Lighting and heating systems in our vertical farm have been upgraded with the latest climate control software, enabling us to improve fertigation and advance our research into sustainable crop growing.

Fertigation is the technique of supplying dissolved fertiliser to crops through an irrigation system. The ratio of nutrients to water can be manipulated and managed to obtain the maximum yield. Although it's too early to measure the results scientifically, indications are that our herbs and salads are maturing more quickly, and with more flavour.

Crops are also grown soil free in our industry standard glasshouse, which has automated watering, feeding and heating systems. Zero-mile produce such as strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines and chillies are served in our restaurants, while the vegetable waste feeds our zoo animals.

PhD student begins research

The first PhD student to carry out a research project within the recently launched Institute of Sustainability and Food Innovation (IoSFI) has taken up her role.

Ella Robbins is conducting original research on whether treating water with stabilised hydrogen peroxide improves water quality, and whether the use of treated water for irrigation could improve crop performance. This approach is thought to have much potential but its use is limited by a lack of robust data and scientific understanding.

Hopefully Ella's research will lead to greater and better quality crop yields and less food waste, and her data will result in a published thesis. IoSFI is an academic collaboration between University Centre Reaseheath and the University of Chester.



Celebrations for the Class of 2023

Nearly 200 graduates who completed degrees at University Centre Reaseheath (UCR) joined peers from the University of Chester, our strategic alliance partner, for a spectacular graduation ceremony held in Chester's historic cathedral.

The graduates were awarded degrees in agricultural science, animal management, canine clinical behaviour, equine science, zoo management, wildlife conservation and ecology, adventure sports and coaching and rural events management. They were joined by our inaugural cohort of veterinary nurses, who were awarded their BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing after completing a new four year degree which is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.



BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing



FdSc in Agriculture



BSc (Hons) Zoo Management

FdSc Adventure Sports and Coaching



Professor Eunice Simmons, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Chester, told our graduates that their degrees would benefit the wider community and that they were now equipped with the skills and knowledge to develop the industries around regenerative farming, conservation of animal species, food security and sustainability, veterinary nursing and rural businesses.

Watch at <https://bit.ly/UCR-Graduation23>

Eden dairy technologists graduate

Aspiring dairy technologists who completed a unique degree level apprenticeship at UCR graduated at a separate ceremony alongside peers from the Faculty of Science, Business and Enterprise at the University of Chester.

Our industry focused Eden programme is a bespoke higher level education initiative, driven and supported by leading dairy companies, which upskills promising professionals in the sector. It is offered solely through UCR and aims to produce world-class employees through practical and academic study.

UCR actively supports higher level learning which enables those already in employment to progress their careers. Eden undergraduates travel from throughout the UK to study for a Foundation Degree in Dairy Technology on a block release basis at our industry standard Food Centre.



Watch at <https://bit.ly/UCR-Eden-24>

Dean's Awards for outstanding graduates

A mammal keeper at a Greek zoo, a graduate who applied complex investigative techniques to measure public attitude to wildlife and a mature career changer who achieved her dream job as a veterinary nurse were the recipients of Dean's Awards at the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2023.

Kalliopi Angelakopoulos *BSc (Hons) Zoo Management (First Class)*

Meredydd David Award for Academic and Technical Excellence

Born and raised in Athens, Kalliopi moved to England in 2020 to study for her degree. She chose UCR because of its excellent practical facilities and completed her second year work placement at our mini zoo.

As well as being an outstanding undergraduate, Kalliopi was Vice President of our Student Association for two years and became involved in all student activities.

The husbandry skills and theoretical knowledge she gained during her studies paid off, as shortly after completing her degree she was offered a position as mammal keeper at Attica Zoological Park in Athens. She is currently working in the savannah area, caring for red pandas and giraffes, and also within the native animal collection which includes bears and wolves.

Tomos Jelfs *BSc (Hons) Animal Management (Behaviour and Welfare)*

Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Undergraduate Research

Tomos completed his Foundation Degree in Animal Management (Behaviour and Welfare) with us in 2022 and followed this with a BSc top-up year.

Discovering an aptitude for research within biological sciences, he is considering studying for a Master's degree in Zoology and furthering his research into human - wildlife co-existence with the hope of encouraging a greater public interest in conservation.

For his final dissertation, Tomos set up a survey which categorised viewpoints of specific groups such as landowners towards wildlife.



Kalliopi Angelakopoulos - Academic and Technical Excellence

Susie Noble *BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing*

Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement and Personal Progression

A member of the first cohort to complete our new four year BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing degree, Susie changed career direction to become a fully qualified veterinary nurse and secured a permanent position within her training practice.

She said: "It is an honour to receive this award. I am grateful to my family and to the exceptional staff at UCR for their guidance and support which has enabled me to achieve a new career in veterinary nursing. As a mature student, I am proof that it's never too late to make your dreams happen."



Susie Noble - Outstanding Achievement & Personal Progression



Tomos Jelfs - Undergraduate Research

Veterinary nursing degree accredited

Our BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing has been fully accredited by the industry's leading professional body, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).



The accreditation proves that this degree programme achieves the RCVS' strict standards and positions UCR as a leading provider of undergraduate veterinary nursing education and training. Successful graduates qualify for their highly respected Registered Veterinary Nurse status without the need for further training and can confidently move forward within their profession.

The programme has been developed and delivered by UCR's specialist veterinary teaching team and includes a substantial clinical placement along with practical study in modern laboratories and dedicated clinical skills suites in our new Veterinary Nursing Centre, which is also home to our veterinary nursing apprentices.



UCR landscape architect scores hat-trick

BSc (Hons) Landscape Architecture alumnus Nathan Webster took three top awards for his 'Off the Grid' show garden at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park.

Nathan, who studied on our Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture before progressing onto his degree, was awarded Best Young Designer Garden and Best Construction, Young Designer Garden, plus a gold medal, in the prestigious RHS Young Designer of the Year category. His woodland design, built by Wright Landscapes, for whom he works as lead landscape

architect, embraced sustainable living and reflected his passion for the outdoors.

Nathan furthered his elite show experience by helping to build a gold medal winning show garden at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The Ecotherapy garden, designed by Tom Bannister and built by Wright Landscapes, was judged best balcony garden.

UCR florists buzzing after award

UCR florists were runners up in a competition at the prestigious Interflora World Cup, a prominent international event being held in the UK for the first time since its inception in 1972.

Shiona Fosh, Felicity Toogood and Helen Allison, undergraduates on our Level 4 Higher Diploma in Floristry, pitted their skills against teams from four other colleges at the Interflora Student Team of the Year. They had just 50 minutes to create a huge worker bee - the symbol of Manchester - in flowers and foliage and were marked on their creativity, innovation and sustainable use of materials.

As well as competing, the undergraduates were privileged to watch and learn from elite florists from around the globe.





Undergraduate's show garden champions 'grow your own'

Aspiring garden designer Harry Dean will celebrate his community allotment's 100th birthday in his debut show garden at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2024.

Harry, who is studying for a BSc (Hons) in Landscape Architecture at UCR, will lead a team of fellow vegetable growers from Over Allotments in Winsford on the garden build. 'A Gourd Time' will offer design ideas using produce grown by plot holders and will hopefully inspire show visitors to

grow their own vegetables or even to become allotment holders.

The idea for Harry's garden stems from a historical event in 1990, when a pumpkin grown by a former allotmentee weighed in at a massive 579 lb (262.6 kilograms), briefly holding the British heaviest pumpkin record!

Florists decorate stately home

Higher level florists helped to decorate a notable stately home in readiness for its popular floral festival.

Our floristry department has been invited to prepare impressive Arley Hall annually for the past ten years, allowing our students to experience event dressing at the highest level.

Students working at Levels 3, 4 and 5 were assigned to decorate the drawing room used by Arley Hall's owner, Viscount Ashbrook, and his family. The students' creations included an intricate screen, a floating design in front of a mirror, two corner columns, a fireplace garland and a cascade for the piano, in colours reflecting the room's décor. The floral designs were much



admired by the public and the project was an excellent addition to the students' CVs.

Animal science undergraduates present at BCUR

Four UCR animal science undergraduates presented their final dissertations at the British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR), held at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Grace Gouldin (BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing), discussed whether anxiety impacted the pain scale in canines during spaying, while Sam Sheriff (BSc (Hons) Zoo Management) described how the group composition of Western lowland gorillas affected enclosure use in UK collections.

Rys Howells, (BSc (Hons) Animal Management) presented their poster 'Do happy mealworms make happy meals?' which analysed fat content as an indicator of stress in captive mealworms, while Sydney Smith (BSc (Hons) Zoo Management), presented a poster evaluating a children's education programme at Knowsley Safari Park. Our delegates also listened to key speakers and mixed with international peers.



Celebration of success

Our annual awards ceremonies celebrated the success of over 1100 Further Education students who achieved industry focused technical qualifications during the academic year.

Impressively, 90% have found a rewarding career in their chosen industry or intend to progress into Higher Education, with many opting to study at University Centre Reaseheath.

Principal Marcus Clinton emphasised that Reaseheath remains a leader in land-based training and offers programmes which are supported by key employers, enabling students to develop crucial employability skills. He emphasised that the college excels at developing and embracing new technologies and continues to invest in new resources and facilities including £3m on specialist equipment to support T Levels within departments and at the college farm.

The guests of honour were agriculture alumnus Rosemarie Lee, owner of Weaver Dairy House Farm, animal management alumnus Greg Clifton, Section Manager of Primates and Carnivores, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, and business alumnus Jonny Ellams, Senior Commercial Manager, Hull KR.

Cross college award winners were:

E C COLLINS TROPHY

Student making the best contribution to college life

■ **Isabella Yates** (Level 2 Diploma in Professional Bakery)

NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK CUP

Student making the best all round contribution

■ **Keeley Waters** (FdSc Animal Management (Behaviour and Welfare))

JK LAMBERTON TROPHY For personal qualities

■ **Emilie Dean** (Level 1 Extended Certificate in Employability Skills)

GJ ENGLAND TROPHY

Student who contributed most to sporting activities

■ **Giorgio Oxby** (Level 1 Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies - Sport)

REASEHEATH COLLEGE AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABILITY

■ **Declan Beadle** (C&G Diploma in Skills for Working Life - Entry 3)



Jonny Ellams and Isabella Yates



Greg Clifton and Keeley Waters



Emilie Dean and Rosie Lee



Jonny Ellams and Giorgio Oxby



Assistance dog saves student

A medical alert dog whose quick action saved an animal management student from a potential house fire has received a national award.

German shepherd Mia rescued Melody Chen after she lost consciousness due to a medical episode. Melody felt unwell while cooking breakfast and lay down, forgetting she was heating oil in a frying pan.

As the oil burst into flames, Mia brought Melody round by licking her face and barking, then tugged at her sleeve and guided her to

the back door. Fortunately Melody, who suffers from low blood sugar, a heart condition and asthma, was unhurt, but realised that the outcome could have been much worse if it hadn't been for her remarkable dog.

Mia was crowned Assistance Dog of the Year at the Animal Star Awards and continues to enjoy campus life alongside Melody.

New tractors aid precision farming

New top-of-the-range John Deere tractors and specialist equipment will provide opportunities for all agriculture students to gain essential operating skills using the latest farm machinery.

Equipped with cutting edge technologies and analysis tools, the tractors allow the user to gather and process information which will assist management decisions, particularly in the effective application of site specific fertilisers. The aim is to improve crop productivity while using sustainable practices.

The tractors were acquired through high level technical skills funding and delivered by industry partner the Cornthwaite Group. They were officially handed over

to Assistant Principal Iain Clarke by Group Inventory Manager Andy Lomas, a former Reaseheath National Diploma in Engineering student who has progressed his career within the group.



Cake for royal occasion

Professional Bakery students and lecturers from all levels collaborated to produce a spectacular cake to celebrate a visit by HRH The Princess Royal.

Her Royal Highness, who was on campus to open a new centre for Nantwich & District Riding for the Disabled Group, cut the first slice in front of a delighted audience, who later shared it along with 150 cup cakes which were also designed and made by bakery students.

The large sponge cake was decorated with a horse's head complete with a rosette and adorned with purple flowers and horseshoes, a theme also chosen for the cupcakes. Some of the young bakers attended the prestigious event to set out and serve their cake, thoroughly enjoying the occasion.



Focus on Further Education

Motor vehicle students demonstrate industry skills

Next generation motor vehicle technicians demonstrated their expertise at an inter college competition focused on good practice and industry skills.

The Cheshire Skills Automotive Competition tested the practical skills and knowledge of teams from Reaseheath, Warrington & Vale Royal College, Macclesfield College and Cheshire College South & West.

The contestants, who were apprentices or IMI Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair students, had to remove and replace a cylinder head gasket and were quizzed by a panel of professionals.

They were judged on their use of technical data and tools and equipment, their awareness of health and safety and on the quality of their work. Warrington and Vale Royal narrowly won the contest, while the other teams were equal runners-up.



Business students win festival challenge

Reaseheath business students won an inter college competition designed to test their skills in an industry setting.

The Cheshire & Warrington Business Skills Competition is a collaboration between Reaseheath, Warrington & Vale Royal College, Macclesfield College and Cheshire College South & West.

Teams of aspiring entrepreneurs from each college were challenged to develop innovative solutions for a common festival problem - the mountains of abandoned gear left behind. The students had to create

a business plan addressing the environmental and financial issues and pitch their ideas 'Dragons' Den' style to judges.

All the teams had creative upcycling and reuse ideas but Reaseheath's Basket Barrows, which transformed chairs, tents, and other items into rentable or purchasable festival carts, was selected the winner.

Construction students praise industry collaboration

T Level Construction students praised an industry-led project which allowed them to gain valuable skills and experience in preparation for their future careers.

The students, who are studying Design, Surveying and Planning, were challenged to design a tailor-made bungalow for those with disabilities and present their ideas to a panel. The task was set by Together, which has become a key T Level partner of our construction department as part of its commitment to supporting young talent entering the sector.

The winning design, by Phillippa Jones, was built on campus by T level students, who gain practical skills in brickwork, joinery and plastering along with project

management. The costs of materials were met by Together. Runners up were Ethan Leese and Harvey Bennett.





Winter mountaineering skills gained

Level 3 Adventure Sports students developed the specialist skills and techniques required for winter mountaineering during a week's study tour to the Cairngorms National Park in Scotland.

Rising floristry stars rewarded

Two up-and-coming floristry students gained a privileged invitation to a celebration marking the launch of National Florist Day - the first ever day dedicated to the wonderful world of flowers, floristry and florists.

Maya Twigg and James Jones were hand-picked by The Florist magazine's editor Caroline Marshall-Forster as potential industry ambassadors and invited to the exclusive launch at The Dorchester, London.

The pair, both Level 2 Diploma in Floristry students, were selected for their passion and dedication

to their craft, and were featured as 'Young Guns' in the publication.

During the event, the students, who were accompanied by Course Manager Helen Longshaw, mixed with inspirational industry influencers including Neill Strain of Floral Couture and designer florist at The Dorchester, Philip Hammond.



Equine students inspired to become industry ready

British Horse Society (BHS) assessors delivered a motivational message to equine students, promoting the benefits of achieving additional BHS qualifications alongside college studies.

During a conference held at our Equestrian Centre, students learned about the BHS qualifications available and how achieving these would help develop their careers. The event was led by FBHS Equestrian Performance Coach and BHS lead assessor Sam York, who provided an overview of the stages of qualifications within the BHS



Coaching Pathway, and by BHS Career Transition Fund Manager Charis Howard, who described the significant financial assistance available to those wishing to access BHS qualifications.

The students were joined by BHS Accredited Professional Coaches from a wide area, and by interested members of the public.

The students enjoyed fantastic opportunities to practice moving on snow, ice and rock, using ice axes and crampons for safe travelling, and also learned how to dig emergency shelters and how to apply their navigation skills in poor visibility using a map and compass.

They also consolidated their decision making and planning skills by interpreting weather and avalanche forecasts, and developed valuable personal and social skills by sharing accommodation and cooking and eating together. The group also attended a lecture on winter mountain hazards at the National Training Centre and Centre of Excellence for Scotland.

Apprenticeships

Reaseheath celebrates apprentice 'stars'

An ambitious Bus and Coach Engineering Technician who is using his apprenticeship programmes to progress within his company took top honours at our annual apprenticeship awards.

Hasan Girach, who works for First Bus, one of the UK's largest regional bus operators, received the Principal's Award which goes annually to an outstanding apprentice who has made a substantial impact on their employer's business and whose performance embodies Reaseheath's core values.

Hasan also won the Transport Engineering Apprentice of the Year award for his positive approach to learning and for the exceptional quality of his work. He has now moved onto a Level 3 Team Leader apprenticeship, also delivered by Reaseheath, which will support his progression into a supervisory role. He plans to develop his career within First Bus and in the future to become an engineering director.

Finalists in the Transport Engineering Apprentice of the Year were Sophy Smith, also from First Bus, and Calum Allport, a Rail Engineering Technician with Alstom.

Other winners and finalists were:

Food & Drink Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Joshua Jones, Business Partner, Kelsmor Dairy

Finalists: Alfie Artell, Food and Drink Process Operator, Encirc; Debrah Shone, Baker, the University of Chester

Land and Environment Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Thomas Gray, Farm Technician, R & JA Bayley

Finalists: Anna Holland, Veterinary Nurse, Pool Farm Veterinary Practice; Fiona Brunning, Veterinary Nurse, Gatehouse Veterinary Centre; Harvey Clapton, Stockperson, P Hickson & Partners

Land-based Service Engineering Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Joseph Stewart, Engineering Technician, G W Stewart

Finalists: Tom Bainbridge, Engineering Technician, C R Willcocks & Co; William Moorcroft, Engineering Technician, John Sutch Cranes

Construction Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Connor O'Brien, Site Carpenter, Persimmon Homes



Hasan Girach



Joshua Jones



Christopher Reed

Finalists: Christopher Forshaw, Advanced Site Carpenter, S R Elliott Build & Glaze; Patrick Ithell, Site Carpenter, Hurst Joinery

Business and Professional Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Christopher Reed, Learning and Skills Teacher, Reaseheath College

Functional Skills Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Ben Shaw, Golf Greenkeeper, Wallasey Golf Club

Finalists: Stephen Wood, Horticulture Operative, The Trentham Estate; Terrence Rochester, Engineering Technician, Ardent Hire



Large Employer winner Alstom



SME winner Prior Power Solutions



SME finalist Ian Garnett, Garnett Farms

Industry partnerships celebrated

Industry partners joined Reaseheath's Apprenticeship and Business Hub teams to celebrate the success of their apprenticeship programmes.

The event, held during National Apprenticeship Week, featured the presentation of awards to businesses judged to have 'gone the extra mile' in supporting their apprentices.

Large Employer of the Year

Winner: Alstom

Alstom is a global leader in the transportation sector and has 37 UK sites including Crewe Works, which is a major local employer. To ensure a supply of skilled and qualified rail engineering technicians, the company collaborates with Reaseheath to create a high quality and continuously evolving apprenticeship programme.

Over 40 apprentices from sites throughout the North West, the Midlands and London are on a three year block release programme based at Reaseheath's Engineering Apprenticeship Academy. Judges felt the apprenticeship provided a well rounded learning experience including mentorship, professional development and a clear career path, and noted the company embraced diversity.

Finalists:

Arla - Dairy technicians employed by the company complete a higher level apprenticeship offered through our Eden programme.

First Bus - 80 apprentices study with us on a Bus and Coach Engineering apprenticeship, recording an above average pass rate.

Muller UK & Ireland - Muller played a pivotal role in the creation of our Eden apprenticeship, and continues to support it.

SME Employer of the Year

Winner: Prior Power Solutions

Prior Power Solutions has 44 years' experience in marine and industrial oil and gas engineering and a strong record of young talent progression into management.

Judges felt the company's apprentices benefit from

a comprehensive training plan, supported by opportunities to work across a range of departments.

Finalists:

Garnett Farms - Ian Garnett has an enduring commitment to the future of his apprentices and keenly contributes to their training programme.

Platinum Construction - Platinum Construction proactively uses its apprenticeship programme to attract young talent into its workforce and invests in their future.

Apprentice Mentor of the Year

Winner: Simon Holmes, Group Service Manager, TH White Group

Simon supports 15 land based service engineering apprentices across nine sites, working closely with Reaseheath to ensure the qualification correctly reflects industry requirements.

Finalists:

Lauren Gilbert - Park House Vets

Sean Bell - First Bus

Veronica Deery - County Vets Alsager



Apprentice Mentor of the Year
Simon Holmes



Watch at

<https://bit.ly/ApprenticeshipAwards24>

Employer's business boosted by £millions

A degree level apprentice whose research project could potentially enable his employer to generate £5m in additional revenue received a special award on graduating from University Centre Reaseheath.

Aaron Morgan, who completed a Foundation Degree in Dairy Technology while studying on our industry focused Eden programme, was presented with the Meredydd David Award for Academic and Technical Excellence.

The Technical Manager at Dairy Partners (Cymru Wales), Aaron's project determined the practicality and potential benefits of installing a new bulk clean-in-place (CIP) system at his company's mozzarella factory in South Wales. CIP is an automated method of cleaning interior surfaces of equipment without dismantling, commonly used in the food and beverage industry.

Aaron's findings led to the installation of a new CIP system which has reduced cleaning downtime and significantly increased productivity.



Sixth industry accolade for Food Centre

Reaseheath's outstanding Food Processing Halls team has achieved the highest standards of Food Safety and Hygiene within a food production facility for the sixth consecutive year.

The team was awarded the prestigious AA standard following a rigorous audit against the latest Brand Recognition Compliance Global Standard (BRCGS) Issue 9. This is the highest possible

benchmark for best practice in food manufacture and proof that our Food Centre operates under highly controlled conditions and at the highest industry standards, further evidencing the industry focused, career ready nature of our work.

This was our first audit against Issue 9 of the standard, which included changes to the food safety culture plan, food defence and further allergen controls.

T Level held up as benchmark

Reaseheath's successful delivery of T Level in Onsite Construction was held up as a benchmark for others to follow at an industry-led information and networking event hosted on campus.

The Construction Industry Training Board event, supported by the Department for Education and the Gatsby Foundation, brought together curriculum leaders from 12 UK education providers who are delivering or planning to deliver the T Level in Onsite Construction.



The delegates discussed how the T Level can be developed and supported to meet the needs of both students and the construction industry, with Reaseheath's curriculum offer being held up as a model of best practice, particularly in its 100% retention of students and its strong industry partnerships.





NFU Vice President quizzed

Agriculture students took the opportunity to quiz National Farmers' Union (NFU) Vice President Rachel Hallos during a campus visit.

Rachel, whose specialities include education, workforce skills and science, research and development, came to Reaseheath to gain a greater understanding of the skills training we offer, in particular in the areas of food, farming and environmental protection.

After touring our vertical farm, glasshouses, automated robotic milking system and industry

standard Food Centre, she paused briefly at a soil science masterclass before joining students for a Q and A session.

Subjects discussed included the importance of agricultural businesses adapting to meet the changing demands of the consumer, and the increasing emphasis on the use of data and science within farming and food production.

Partnership enhances career prospects

Our partnership with sports coaching and education company NAR Kollektive is enhancing the training and learning of sports students as they prepare for entry into industry.

The company, which is owned, run and staffed by experienced sports professionals, is supporting our sports programmes through high level coaching and also by providing access to a well rounded experience within the sports sector.

Students on our Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development are

enjoying weekly football coaching sessions from NAR athletes, while BSc (Hons) in Football Coaching undergraduates are developing their working knowledge alongside the coaches.

There are also plans to widen the range of sports in the curriculum, enabling students to gain a wider overview of the sporting industry.



BHS coaching conference hosted

Professionals looking to elevate their British Horse Society (BHS) accredited qualifications attended the British Horse Society Jump Coaching Conference, staged at our Equestrian Centre.



Thanks to our strong partnership with the BHS, Reaseheath was one of only two venues in the UK selected to host the event, giving our staff and students a fantastic platform to demonstrate the high quality coaching and training facilities that we offer.

Industry stalwarts Carole Broad FBHS and Danny Anholt FBHS led the conference, while our own BHS qualified instructors Georgina Dickinson, Katie Hancox, Tyler Simpson and Fiona Saxby showcased the excellent coaching offered at Reaseheath, assisted by talented student riders.

The event was very informative and we received outstanding feedback from attendees.

Outstanding success for Nantwich Show

The Nantwich Show, held on Reaseheath's estate, was hailed an outstanding success after delivering a spectacular showcase of rural life in South Cheshire.



Last year the one day show attracted 8,000 visitors and over 250 trade stands including 46 agricultural stands. Over 200 volunteers worked together to ensure the smooth running of the event, and 600 entries flooded in for categories including shire horses, cattle, sheep, vintage tractors, pigeons, eggs, home produce, crafts and floral arts.

Over 250 local and regional businesses attended to promote their products or services and there were entertainments and activities for all including countryside pursuits and a dog show, plus superb local food outlets.

The Nantwich Show returns to Reaseheath on Wednesday 31 July 2024.



Nantwich Food Festival sponsored

Reaseheath is a headline sponsor of the hugely successful Nantwich Food Festival, which regularly attracts record crowds to the town in September.

One of the UK's largest free food festivals, the three day event showcases the best of culinary talent and produce, raises the profile of local businesses and delivers a substantial boost to the local economy.

The Reaseheath sponsored Love Lane Food Theatre is the location for the main cookery

stage and hosts the official event launch. Capacity audiences enjoy demonstrations by celebrity chefs and by our own highly talented staff such as Bakery and Patisserie Course Manager Sam Copeland and Master Butcher Gary Evans, the latter giving talks on the 'Field to Fork' journey of ethically produced food.

Reaseheath remembers

Guests from our local community joined students and staff to pay their respects at Remembrance Day services across campus.

Apprentices and trainers were joined by former members of the armed forces and representatives from neighbouring industries at a service held for the first time at Reaseheath's Engineering Apprenticeship Academy.

The tribute was attended by 85 construction plant and bus and coach engineering apprentices, academy staff, guests from Crewe 94 Sea Cadet Corps and representatives from neighbouring businesses The Blue Group and Hodson Crane Hire and Haulage.

A service on main campus was attended by hundreds of students and staff, where poignant poem 'For the Fallen' was read by Level 3 Diploma Uniformed Protective Services students.





Watch at
<https://bit.ly/Lambing24>

Families flock to Lambing Weekend

Thousands of visitors enjoyed a fantastic introduction to farming life when we opened our lambing sheds to the public.

The sell-out family event, being held for the 25th year, enabled visitors to learn about the job of a shepherd while watching our lambing flock with their newborns.

Reaseheath's Mini Zoo, which is one of the best at any educational institution in the country, was also open. Visitors enjoyed viewing our extensive animal collection

which includes meerkats, lemurs, otters, birds of prey, companion animals, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Activities included educational talks by zoo keepers, and in particular the chance to learn more about our resident Ouessant sheep, a rare French heritage breed renowned for being the world's smallest sheep breed.

Litter pick benefits local wildlife

Level 2 Animal Care students cleared up litter which was polluting the nearby River Weaver.

The students decided to help after learning about pollution incidents which caused the deaths of thousands of fish in the river. Twenty students collected four large bags of rubbish from the riverbank between Reaseheath College and Nantwich swimming baths.

Programme Leader Lucy Brydon explained: "We have been developing sustainability skills and

used the pollution of the River Weaver as an example of how dramatically an ecosystem can be affected by human influences.

"The litter pick enabled the students to build practical skills and at the same time give back to our local community. They have also developed greater understanding of how they can help to conserve their local habitats."



Cubs enjoy sweet treats

The 1st SWC St Andrews cub pack worked towards a new badge by making their own ice cream in our Food Centre.

Three groups totalling 17 cubs had to produce a flavour of ice cream. Lemon, raspberry and vanilla were selected and the cubs produced the ice cream and decorated it with sweet treats. All finished the session full of ice cream and very happy!



The visit was arranged through Reaseheath Dairy Technologist and Instructor Jenny Newall, who is the pack's Cub Scout Leader. She explained:

“We like to introduce varied activities to keep the children interested while completing their badge work. Making ice cream will definitely be among their favourites so far!

Celebrating Staff

HR team completes charity triathlon challenge

A nine-strong team from our Human Resources department successfully completed an ambitious triathlon to raise funds for our RAG (Raising and Giving) charity of the year, the British Heart Foundation.



Team members spent seven weeks running and walking, cycling and swimming, covering an impressive 2,797.61 km in total and raising more than £200. This was well over their initial target of 2,400km, selected because 2,400 people in Crewe and Nantwich live with coronary heart disease.

Louise Woodman, Becki Newton-Chesters, Caroline Belshaw, Sue Poole, Beth Browning, Cath Pilsbury, Sam Straker, Sarah Groom and Jamie Lavery were delighted to smash their distance target (equivalent to travelling from Reaseheath to the Acropolis in Athens) while raising funds for an important cause.



Construction Team

Exceptional staff honoured

The superb contribution staff members make to the success of Reaseheath College and University Centre, particularly to its student experience, was recognised at a presentation ceremony.

The Reaseheath PRIDE Awards are presented at the end of each academic year to exceptional teams and individuals who 'go the extra mile' in role modelling the Reaseheath values of People, Responsibility, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence. All nominations come from colleagues.

The Principal's Award, for the staff member or team judged to have made the most outstanding contribution of the year, went equally to two teams - University Centre Reaseheath's Veterinary Nursing team and the Construction Department's T Level team.

Individual awards went to:

- **Lisa Brewitt** (Entry and Foundation Course Manager)
- **Nick Robertson** (Head of Apprenticeships)
- **Laura Steele** (Level 1 Sport Course Manager)
- **Chloe Coathupe** (HR Administrator)
- **Chris Buckle** (Access and Participation Co-Ordinator)
- **Kate Chandler** (Food technician and bakery lecturer)
- **Gareth Ferris** (IT Systems and Infrastructure Manager)
- **Rob Whitehouse** (Animal Management Lecturer and Course Manager)
- **Megan Irvine** (Content Marketing Officer and Copywriter)

Would you like to join Reaseheath College's fantastic team?

Check out: <https://www.reaseheath.ac.uk/job-vacancies>



Chris Buckle

Laura Steele

RAG fundraising soars!

The generosity of our students and staff earned sky high praise after members of our Student Association (SA) handed over an incredible £20,000 to this year's chosen charity, The British Heart Foundation (BHF).

The impressive amount, with still more to come, was raised through RAG (Raising and Giving) activities including a daring sky dive, a sponsored walk of the 34 mile (55 kilometre) Sandstone Trail, a spooktacular Scarefest at Halloween and a campus chase team challenge.

A packed schedule of RAG activities have been organised throughout the year and particularly during RAG Week by the SA and Student Life Team. Many departments have run their own events, and brave staff even volunteered to go in stocks and have soaking sponges thrown at them! SA members also received generous donations from visitors to our Lambing Weekend and award winning stand at the Royal Cheshire Show.

The cheque handover was made before our student summer ball, held in a marquee on the lawn.

Our students are selecting their charity for the academic year 2024-25 and welcome applications from local charities.

Email studentlife@reaseheath.ac.uk

Hayley Gough, BHF Regional Manager, North West, said: "We were absolutely thrilled when Reaseheath College chose to support us as its charity partner and have been overjoyed at the huge effort the students and staff have put in to raise this wonderful total. More than a quarter of deaths annually in the UK are the result of heart and circulatory conditions. This generous donation is vital for us to continue our research into better ways of diagnosing, preventing, and treating patients. We are so very grateful!"

RAG Chair Sophie Connor added: "I have been delighted at the success of our fundraising events and would like to thank my incredible team for their support and for coming up with such fantastic ideas. This is definitely an experience I'll never forget!"



Greg Clifton

- Foundation Degree in Zoo Management 2010
- Section Manager of Primates and Carnivores, Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Greg studied at Reaseheath for seven years, progressing from Level 1 Foundation Animal Care to a degree in zoo management.

During his time with us, Greg worked at our mini zoo and with other zoos and wildlife parks to extend his practical knowledge. He also gained industry qualifications to help progress his career.

He has a particular interest in primate conservation and husbandry and in improving primate welfare standards throughout the industry. He was a Primate Keeper at Twycross Zoo, Warwickshire before his current role.

“The facilities at Reaseheath’s Animal Centre are amazing, but it was the staff and their experiences in the industry I found most inspiring. They helped me decide where I wanted to go in life.”



Stay connected!

We love to keep in touch with former students through our growing alumni community.

Whether you’re continuing your studies, entering employment or progressing in your career, please let us know how you’re getting on at:

www.reaseheath.ac.uk/alumni



Andy Lomas

- National Diploma in Agricultural Engineering 2010
- Group Inventory Manager Cornthwaite Group

Andy has progressed his career throughout his 11 years with the Cornthwaite Group and is ultimately aiming for a sales team management role within this progressive company.

He gained a sound understanding of how to repair and maintain land-based machinery on our Level 3 Diploma and credits the

experience of a year spent on work placement in a dealership with defining his career path. After he qualified he worked for a contractor, gaining valuable experience of the operator’s point of view, before moving into the exciting area of demonstration and sales.

“There’s a focus throughout the sector on advancements in technology leading to more sustainable management practices, such as autonomous systems which can hugely reduce the application of insecticides and herbicides.”

Cerys Fairclough

- Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture 2022
- National hardware sales co-ordinator, Wynnstay Group

Cerys spent an extended work placement with the Wynnstay Group during her course and was offered a permanent position on completion of her qualification. Her role includes supporting stores and sales reps with technical knowledge on the company’s hardware range, liaising with suppliers, discussing farmers’ needs and helping to find solutions.



She is continuing her professional development by studying part time for a business degree at the University of South Wales, along with developing her own breeding flock of Blue Faced Leicester sheep.

“My placement broadened my horizons and introduced me to exciting opportunities within the commercial side of farming. I am passionate about British farmers and the high quality food they produce, and I feel proud to be part of the industry.”

Reaseheath at a glance...

■ SUBJECT AREAS

Further and Higher Education and Apprenticeships

- Adventure Sports
- Agriculture
- Agricultural Engineering
- Animal Management
- Bakery, Patisserie and Confectionery
- Business and Events Management
- Construction
- Environmental Conservation
- Entry and Foundation Learning
- Equine
- Floristry
- Forestry and Arboriculture
- Horticulture
- Food Technology
- Motor Vehicle
- Personal Training
- Sport
- Uniformed Services
- Veterinary Nursing

■ STUDENTS

Further Education: **2,309**

Higher Education: **562**

Apprenticeships: **1,075**

Residential students: **686**

Adult learners: **184**

Students using college transport between home and campus: **1,800**

Students supported with bursaries: **742**

■ STAFF

Total Staff: **650**

■ ESTATE

College grounds: **21 hectares**

Owned and rented farm land: **252.52 hectares**

Land leased to Crewe Alexandra Football Club: **6 hectares**

■ INCOME

Academic year 2022/23: **£38.21 million**

■ FACILITIES

On-site accommodation for up to 600; seven catering outlets; student lounge/bar; learning resource centre/library; dedicated HE classrooms, lecture theatres, study pods; HE lounge and bar; two sports halls; sports pitches; multi gym; equestrian centre; campus farm; mini zoo; licensed food factory; vertical farm.



Hannah Roach

■ **Level 2 Horse Care Apprenticeship 2020**

■ **Racehorse trainer**

Hannah made a winning start to her career as a racehorse trainer, recording an above average 65% strike rate in her first full season.

Aged just 22, she has taken over the reins from her former boss and runs a small yard with up to ten point to pointers in training. During her first season she saddled 33 runners and

recorded an impressive eleven wins, six seconds and five thirds, including victory in the Holland Cooper Intermediate hunter chase at Cheltenham.

“ I chose to do an apprenticeship because I wanted to stay on the yard and it gave me the continuity to continue learning on the job as well as doing a recognised qualification. I still use the knowledge I gained every day.

Jonny Ellams

■ **Foundation Degree Event Management with Business 2018**

■ **BA (Hons) Business and Events Management 2019 (top-up)**

■ **Senior Commercial Manager, Hull KR**

Jonny's role is to advance this first division UK Rugby League club by creating commercial revenue through partnerships with brands and companies, and by ensuring that hospitality packages remain top quality to encourage sponsorships.

He wasn't looking to work in the sports sector but found that his UCR business degree gave him universal skills and was a great preparation for the world of work.

“ I gained an in-depth understanding of the way businesses operate, and by writing assignments I learned to present ideas in an appealing and logical manner. The support I got from my lecturers was truly phenomenal!



Come and see us!

The carnival atmosphere of our **Family Festival** (sadly lost due to wet weather this year, but planning already for next year!), the thrill of meeting newborns at our **Lambing Weekends** and the chance to learn more about the residents of our **mini zoo** are just some of the reasons visitors pour onto our campus each year.

Our mini zoo is open to the public during most school holidays and at weekends, and our animals are always pleased to see visitors! We have a **zoo school** for young people and we run fun **birthday parties** and **'Keeper for the Day'**. There are also competitions at our **Equestrian Centre** most weekends, and we hire out our **sports** facilities.

We hold regular **open days** for potential students and undergraduates, and **taster sessions** for specific areas like our new T Level courses. We also offer an extensive range of courses for adults, from hobby tuition to professional qualifications, and we have a **Forest College**, designed to re-engage young people with learning.

To find out more visit

www.reaseheath.ac.uk
(College)

www.ucreaseheath.ac.uk
(University Centre)

www.reaseheath.ac.uk/zoo

www.reaseheath.ac.uk/adult-learners

grassroots



www.reaseheath.ac.uk

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